

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

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1. Name of Property

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historic name Thomas J. Lewis House

other names/site number _____

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2. Location

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street & number 105 S. Arnold Street not for publication ☐

city or town Roann vicinity _____

state Indiana code IN county Wabash code 169 _____

zip code 46060

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this _____ nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide _____ locally. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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4. National Park Service Certification

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I, hereby certify that this property is:

_____ entered in the National Register	_____	_____
_____ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
_____ determined eligible for the	_____	_____
National Register	_____	_____
_____ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
_____ determined not eligible for the	_____	_____
National Register	_____	_____
_____ removed from the National Register	_____	_____
_____ other (explain): _____	_____	_____

Signature of Keeper

Date
of Action

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
___1___	___1___ buildings

_____ sites
__2__ _____ structures
_____ _____ objects
__3__ __1__ Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____None

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

_____N/A_____

=====6

. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: _____Domestic_____	Sub: _____Single Dwelling_____
_____Domestic_____	_____Secondary Structure_____
_____Industry/Processing/Extraction_____	_____Energy Facility_____
_____Domestic_____	_____Secondary Structure_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: _____Work in Progress_____	Sub: _____
_____Work in Progress_____	_____
_____Vacant/Not in use _____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

_____Late Victorian: Queen Anne_____

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____Stone: Limestone_____

roof _____Asphalt Shingles_____

walls _____Wood: weatherboard_____

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance 1903

Significant Dates 1903

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

___ previously listed in the National Register

___ previously determined eligible by the National Register

___ designated a National Historic Landmark

___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

X State Historic Preservation Office

___ Other State agency

___ Federal agency

___ Local government

___ University

___ Other

Name of repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property .25 acres _____

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	___	_____	_____	3	___	_____	_____
2	___	_____	_____	4	___	_____	_____

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title____Carol Ann Schweikert_____

organization_____ date____November 11, 2005__

street & number____307 N. 10th Street_____ telephone____317-776-1239__

city or town____Noblesville_____ state__IN_ zip code ____46060_____

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Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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Property Owner

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____Linda Harris_____

street & number____7669 N. 700W_____ telephone____765-833-2718__

city or town____Roann_____ state__IN_ zip code ____46974_____

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list

properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to Keeper, National Register of Historic Places, 1849 "C" Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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Materials:

Foundation: Brick

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Narrative Description

The Thomas J. Lewis House is situated in Fairfield Addition Lots 3 and 4 in Roann, Indiana. The property also includes 7.25 acres in Paw Paw Township. Because all other structures are severely deteriorated or have been demolished, only Fairfield lots 3 & 4 are included in the boundaries for this nomination. The terrain is rolling grassland. Originally, the property included several smaller outbuildings and a barn. All but one of these outbuildings were demolished several years ago. The remaining storage building is in unsafe condition and will be removed. To the east of the house is the iron frame of the windmill. The windmill provided the power for pumping water into the large receiving vat located in the third story attic. Although the windmill frame remains, the well was filled-in many years ago. Southeast of the house is the cistern, which remains intact. A modern garage is located on the east side of the house (Photo #7). The wood frame structure was built in the 1950's with double garage doors on the north side and two stationary windows on the west side. The property includes one contributing building, the house, one non-contributing building, the modern garage and two contributing structures, the windmill and the cistern.

The Lewis House is a wood frame late Victorian style house two and one-half stories tall with a full basement. County records date the house at c.1903. The exterior is primarily covered with wood lap siding. The basement foundation is rectangular stone blocks with elongated window openings providing light for the basement. The foundation piers for the front, side and rear porches are brick. A brick chimney is located in the back third of the house, originally serving the wood cookstove.

Since its construction, the Lewis House has received only minor changes: the placement of the asphalt siding (recently removed), the removal of the porch railings and side porch steps and the enclosure of the east side of the porch.

The deep cornice underneath the eaves is accented with a dentiled or toothed molding, approximately 10 inches deep. The bargeboard along the

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third-story gables is accented with sawtooth trim. The gable siding is scalloped as is the top row of façade siding just under the cornice. The windows are wood frame with wood sills and casings. The exterior door and window trim is decorative, but simple.

West Façade (Photo #1)

The west façade or front of the house faces Arnold Street with a large porch that measures 31'x10'. The porch has the traditional wood floor, bead board ceiling and squared wood columns. Approaching the entry onto the porch are eight steps formed with river rock and concrete. These steps need to be repaired or replaced, as does the lattice that encloses the bottom of the porch. Above the entry steps is a gable in the porch roof with a decorative swag embellishment.

The off-center entry has two narrow sidelights on either side of the door. These sidelights visually rest on rectangular recessed panels. The entry includes a screen door and the primary entry door. The main entry door has a large glass window and is adorned with decorative millwork. The screen door has 8 glass panes above a large recessed panel.

The façade on this side of the house includes a two-story bay with three windows on each floor. The middle window on the 1st floor has a leaded glass pane in the upper 1/3 sash while the 2nd floor window directly above has a stained glass upper sash. The windows flanking each of the center windows are one-over-one. The bay is capped by a triangular gable on the 3rd floor (Photo #6). A pair of narrow one over one windows in the gable provide light for the attic space. The siding in the gable is scalloped like that used below the cornice. The bargeboard has sawtooth trim. Large brackets adorn the corners underneath the gable.

Originally, the porch wrapped around the south side of the house along the side of the bay. However, around the 1920s, this area was enclosed as a sunroom. Two small six-pane windows look into this room from the porch.

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South Façade (Photos #2 & #3)

The south side is composed of three distinct sections. The first includes the porch and sunroom. The sunroom is accessible on the interior from the entry or an exterior door on the east end. There are four six-pane windows on the south façade of the sunroom.

The middle section on this façade is a 2-story 3-sided bay capped by a triangular gable similar to the configuration on the west façade. The only difference between the two bays is the use of a door instead of a window in the first floor west opening. As with the front façade, the bottom corners of the attic floor gable are accented with carved brackets. The triangular gable has two windows and scalloped siding with sawtooth trim along the bargeboard.

The third section on this façade has an exterior door leading from a small porch into the dining room. The side door and screen door match the front entry doors. Over the porch is a small shed roof embellished with the ½" x 2" slats approximately 10 inches in length. Originally, there were steps on the east and west side of the small porch with a spindle railing. West of the door is another stationary window with an upper stained glass pane. The design is a stylized floral design with geometric accents in gold, greens and white. Above these openings on the second floor are two one-over-one window openings.

East Façade (Photo #4)

The rear of the house faces to the east and entry into the house is through a small porch slightly off-center. The existing horizontal siding on the porch matches the house, but the three sides also include in-filled sections of beadboard. These areas were open originally with screens. There are small stationary windows in the beadboard for light. The first floor also includes a double hung window on each side of the porch. Above the porch is a 2nd story door which also included at one time a set of steps to the ground. Those were likely removed in the 1920s when the asphalt siding was added. The purpose of these steps is unknown since the floor plan also includes an interior back stair.

Twenty feet from the back steps is the windmill, which provided the power for pumping water into the large vat on the third floor. There is also a cistern on the south side of the back steps.

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North Façade (Photo #5)

The plane of the north façade is relatively flat east to west. The window openings vary in size and are scattered asymmetrically over this façade. Three windows are found on the first floor, two on the second and one small opening in the staircase between the first and second floors. Eave treatment and cornice trim are identical to the previous facades of the house. The attic story roofline is broken by a triangular gable like those found on the south and west facades. Decorative treatment of this gable mirrors the previous two gables, but without the corner brackets.

Interior

The interior of the Lewis Home is typical late Victorian style. The floorplan is irregular with a formal entry, two staircases, and pocket doors. The dark-stained woodwork is decorative, but not overly ornate. The walls and ceilings are lath and plaster with multiple layers of wallpaper. The baseboard is 8" oak with corner finals. In addition, most of the 1st floor rooms and each of the bedrooms have oak picture railing approximately 24" from the ceiling. The doorway openings have decorative trim including grooved header and side trim, corner blocks and two different designs in the plinth blocks (Photo #21). The window trim is decorative, but somewhat simpler than the door trim. The door hardware on the first floor is oval in shape with a decorative edge (Photo #22). Upstairs the hardware is much simpler, rectangular in shape and without the decorative edging.

First Floor

The front door opens into the entry containing the front staircase on the north wall leading up to the second story. The stained oak stair has turned balusters and square newel posts at the top, bottom and middle landing (Photo #8). The stairway has two small double hung windows on the north wall. On the east wall is a radiator. The south wall has two openings, one leading into the middle room and one leading into the front parlor. Paneling covers the wall under the staircase (Photo #8). There is one center ceiling fixture. The pine floor of the entry was originally covered with carpet.

The formal parlor on the south side of the entry retains most of the original woodwork, including the picture railing (Photo 9). The bay on the west side has two double hung windows on each side of a stationary window with the top third leaded glass. On the south wall is the radiator, and on the east wall is a pair of oak pocket doors. The ceiling has one center

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fixture that is original to the house. The parlor floor is two-thirds pine in the center with oak along the outside third, indicating the use of a large area rug or carpet.

Through the double pocket doors is the middle room or second parlor (Photo 10). A corner door leads into the sunroom on the southwest corner (Photo 11). Originally, this would have been a second front door. This door matches the other exterior doors. One double hung window is located on the southeast bay wall. A large stationary window with the top third leaded glass dominates the south wall. A radiator and double pocket doors into the dining room are found on the east wall. There is one outlet for a ceiling fixture which is missing. The floor is pine in the center with oak around the outside. The center of the floor was covered with a carpet.

From the middle room facing north, there is a single pocket door leading into the library/study. This single door matches the double pocket doors. There is one double hung window on the north wall, and a center ceiling fixture. The floor is pine and was covered with carpet. The west wall has a door accessing a deep closet that extends under the front stairs. A doorway on the east wall accesses the pantry which connects to the kitchen. The different trim on this doorway may indicate this wall and/or doorway are not original.

From the middle room to the east are double pocket doors leading into the dining room (Photo #18). The south wall of the dining room has a large window with the top third stained glass (Photo #12). East of this window is an exterior door leading to a small porch. On the east wall is a door which leads to an enclosed back stairway (Photo #16). This stairway is oak and much simpler than the entry stair.

On the north side of the dining room is the kitchen. In this wall is a built-in oak cabinet (Photo #19). On the dining room side, the cabinet has decorative molding around the top and brackets along the bottom. There are cabinets and drawers on both sides with a small pass-through between the kitchen and dining room. East of the built-in cabinet is a door to the large kitchen (Photo #13). In this room, the built-in cabinet extends to the floor providing additional storage. The original wood stove sat in the southwest corner of the kitchen with the outlet for the stovepipe above. Also along the west wall was the sink and a door into the pantry. The north wall has one double hung window and the radiator. On the east wall

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is one double hung window and the door to the small back porch. Again facing south is the door leading to the basement steps which run under the back stairway.

Second Floor

Entry to the second floor is by the staircase on the north wall of the entry or the rear stair on the east wall of the dining room. The second floor includes four bedrooms, large closets, and a large bathroom. The rooms and hallway have the same wood baseboard as the downstairs with 12' ceilings. The walls and ceilings are lath and plaster walls. Also, all the rooms except for the bathroom and hallway have a picture railing approximately 24" from the ceiling. The doors upstairs are original with five multi-size panels. The door hardware is simpler than downstairs, rectangular in shape with no decorative edging.

At the top of the front staircase is a large vestibule with an original ceiling light. On the west wall is a door for the third story staircase going up the north side of the house.

The front bedroom faces west and there are two double hung windows on either side of a large stationary window (Photo #14). The upper stained glass pane has a swag design superimposed over on a series of ovals with a wreath design in the center. A radiator is located on the south wall, and on the north wall is the door into a large closet. This room has a center pine floor edged with oak.

The hallway runs east/west with a slight jog in the middle (Photo #17). Going east down the hall are two more bedrooms across from each other. Each has its own closet and the woodwork is similar in both bedrooms. However, the bedroom on the south has three windows including one with stained glass (Photo #20). The closet door is on the east wall with a radiator in the southwest corner of the room. The bedroom on the north side of the hallway has only one window on the north wall. The door to the closet is on the east wall, and the radiator is located in the northeast corner. A laundry chute was originally located at one end of this closet. However, bathroom pipes cut off the laundry chute from the basement.

Continuing east down the hall is the fourth bedroom with two double hung windows on the south wall. The door to the closet is on the east wall as is

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the original opening for the laundry chute. The radiator is located in the southwest corner.

Across from the fourth bedroom is the bathroom with one double hung window on the north wall and the radiator in the northeast corner (Photo #15). The fixtures are original to the installation of the bathroom, probably in the 1920s. The small porcelain sink on the south wall will be re-glazed and installed in a half bath downstairs. The commode and claw foot tub are located on the west wall. The commode is in deteriorated condition and will be replaced. The claw foot tub will remain in place. The ceiling fixture is original.

A large closet is located on the northeast corner of the second floor and opens into the hallway. At the end of the hallway is an exterior door which originally led to an outside staircase going down the east side of the house. At the top of the interior back staircase is an original lighting fixture. The back staircase is enclosed and leads down to the dining room.

The third story or attic is currently open trusses. Gable windows provide light for this space. The original water tank used for water for the radiator heating system remains in place. The attic space will be insulated and finished providing additional living space.

The basement is accessed from a stairway in the kitchen. It has stone walls and concrete floor. The modern mechanicals are found here. This space was originally used for storage.

The non-contributing garage was built in the 1950s. It is wood-frame with two modern garage doors. The metal framework of the windmill stands in its original location over the well which has been filled-in. The cistern remains intact and useable.

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Narrative Statement of Significance

The Thomas J. Lewis House is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria C, Architecture. The home is the best example of the Queen Anne Style in the town of Roann. Lewis, a grain and saw mill owner, built the home c. 1903 during a time of growth following the arrival of the railroad.

The Thomas J. Lewis House is located on lots 3 and 4 in Fairfield's addition to the town of Roann, Indiana. Roann is located in Paw Paw Township in Wabash County. The township was created in 1872 from Pleasant and Noble Townships and is the smallest township in Wabash County. The town of Roann was laid out and recorded in 1853 by Joseph Becker. Other additions were made by Cornelius Halderman and S.H. Butterbaugh. Fairfield's addition was laid out by six men and recorded September 9, 1887.

Roann's post office was created in 1860. In 1871, the Detroit, Eel River and Illinois Railroad was finished to Roann. A covered bridge followed shortly after the railroad in 1876. Roann built its first school in 1885. In 1893 its population had grown to 650 and in 1900, was at 631. In 1902, phone service was established to Roann and in 1915, electric lights were installed. Like many Indiana communities, Roann took advantage of Andrew Carnegie's offer of assistance in building a library. Their Carnegie Library was erected in 1916. After a fire almost completely destroyed the business district in 1901, the town rebuilt. In 1914, Roann boasted a well-organized bank, several stores, grain elevator, sawmill, and cement post factory.

Roann is a small Indiana community like many across the state, flourishing with the coming of the railroad, but lagging as railroad business slowed. The men who platted the Fairfield addition likely expected the spurt of growth brought on by the railroad in the 1870s and 1880s to continue. However, this addition to Roann did not develop quickly. Despite having three Sanborn maps after 1900, this addition is never covered on the Roann surveys. When Thomas J. Lewis and his brother purchased 10 lots here sixteen years after the addition was platted, none of them had any improvements and several were still owned by the original owner.

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Despite the early promise, the town's growth stalled. Today Roann remains a small Indiana community reminiscent of the time when small thriving communities dotted the Indiana landscape.

The Lewis home was originally built by Thomas J. Lewis c. 1903. Lewis moved to Roann with his wife and three children around 1900, probably from Iowa since his wife and children were all born in Iowa. Lewis with his brother Samuel became proprietors of the grain elevator in 1900 and two years later of the sawmill. In the 1901-02 City-County Directory, he is listed as a grain and lumber dealer in Roann. The grain elevator was located on the railroad line near Washington Street, just a short walk from this home. Built in 1887, it had a capacity of 10,000 barrels a day. Machinery included wheat, corn and clover seed cleaners and a corn sheller.

Initially, Lewis rented a residence for his family. In 1902, he purchased 13.25 acres on the northeast side of Roann. In 1903, he purchased lots 3 and 4 in Fairfield's addition from Frances G. Lukens, one of the men who laid out the addition. In the next three years, he purchased six additional lots in Fairfield's Addition: 5, 6, 21, 22, 39 and 40. There were no improvements on any of these lots and his only improvement was the construction of this home in 1903. The 1903-07 Paw Paw Township Transfer Book shows an improvement value of \$2,000 added after Lewis purchased the property. In all likelihood, the lumber for this home came directly from his sawmill. In the basement of the home written with paint is the name "Lloyd Lewis" and the date "11/3 or 5/1906." Lloyd was Thomas's son and graduated from high school in 1906. With two businesses and the construction of this home, it seems that Lewis expected Roann to sustain its growth and planned to remain here. The 1910 Census shows that Lewis owned this home with no mortgage.

It is unknown what Lewis used the adjacent 13.25 acres for. There is no evidence that he farmed it, however, if it had remained wooded, Lewis likely utilized the trees for his sawmill. In 1911, Lewis sold six acres of the 13.25 acre parcel. Lewis lived in this home with his family until 1916. In the 1910s, the population of Roann was declining. In 1910, it had dropped to less than 500. Lewis may have seen a decrease in his lumber and grain mill businesses and saw a need to relocate to a more prosperous, growing community to support both his and his brother's families. In 1916, he and his brother Samuel sold their grain elevator

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and sawmill to the Kinsey Brothers. Lewis sold this home to Flora Bell Pottenger Warner. This sale included lots 3, 4, 5, 6, 21, 22, 39 & 40 in Fairfield's addition, plus the 7.25 acre parcel in Section 1, Township 28. He and Samuel then moved with their families to Clinton County, Indiana and remained self-employed in the lumber business.

Flora Bell Pottenger Warner was the only child of Abram and Mary Ann Peters. She was born in Ohio and moved with her parents to Indiana at age 10 to a farm in Wabash County. When she purchased this home in 1916, she was 51 years old and married to Alvin F. Warner. She had two grown children, an adopted daughter with Warner and a son from her first marriage which ended in divorce in the 1880s.

According to her will, in addition to the property in Roann and adjacent acreage in township 28, she owned two farms. The "home farm" consisted of 120 acres in Section 29, Township 29 in Paw Paw Township. This farm was originally part of a 240 acre parcel owned by her father and on which she grew up. She inherited the 120 acres from his estate. Her son Charles Pottenger inherited the remaining acreage on that farm. The "river farm" was located in section 30, township 29 and was approximately 98 acres. She also inherited this farm from her father, Abram Peters.

Flora B. Warner was an unusual woman for her time. Besides being a divorcee in the late 1800s, she had sole ownership of her properties even after her marriage to Warner. Her husband appears to have had little to do with the purchase or sale of any of her property since he does not appear on any of the deeds. Flora owned this home only a few years, from 1916 until her death in 1924. Her obituary stated she and Alvin had lived in town for the last few years. Exactly why she wanted a large 4 bedroom home in town at this stage in her life is unclear. She had lived most of her life on a farm in Wabash County. Even in the 1918 Directory, after her purchase of this home, she is listed as living in Paw Paw Township, not Roann. It is possible she purchased this home for her son Charles and his family and eventually she and Alvin joined them here.

Despite having a will, her estate was settled through a court settlement under which her husband, Alvin, relinquished his rights to the property she bequeathed to him and elected to take one-third of her property. Through the court settlement, Charles F. and Edith Weber Pottenger, Flora's son and his wife, received lots 3 and 4 and adjacent 7.25 acres in Paw Paw

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township. Charles received Flora's two farms, the home farm and the river farm both in Section 29, Township 29. Flora's husband Alvin received the remaining six lots she owned in Fairfield's addition as well as payments from Charles and Edith for the farms. Charles and Edith Pottenger owned the house and adjacent 7¼ acres until Edith's death in 1957. The home then passed to their only child, a daughter, Carmen. Carmen's first marriage to Kenneth Krisher in 1931 ended in divorce. In 1941, she married William R. Colbert, Chief Warrant Officer in the U.S. Navy. Carmen followed in her Grandmother Warner's footsteps as an independent woman with sole ownership of the home and acreage. At Carmen's death, the home passed to her son Charles Krisher. At his death, the house was sold at auction to the current owner. The house was in Flora Pottenger Warner's family for eighty-eight years.

While owned by the Pottengers, this home was known as the family's "winter quarters" according to a family photograph. The Pottengers owned approximately 445 acres in Paw Paw Township. He and Edith had about 98 acres, he owned 241 acres and Edith had inherited 106 acres from her father Erhart Weber. In 1910, Charles is listed in the census records as a farmer, however, by 1920, he lists his occupation as a machinist. His location also changes from Paw Paw Township to Roann. It seems likely that since Charles was not interested in farming exclusively, they rented out the farm or hired tenant farmers. In 1936 and 1937, Charles and Edith sold all their farmland except the "river farm" and this home became their only residence.

The home is eligible for listing on the National Register under Criteria C, Architecture, as an excellent example of a late Queen Anne style home. The early and mid-Victorian era homes including the Queen Anne style were exuberant in their use of moldings, decorative woodwork, and a multiplicity of materials in varying configurations. Manufactured building materials made construction less expensive and faster and builders were often prolific in their use of these easily available building parts. Later Queen Anne homes, particularly those after 1900, scaled down their use of moldings and decorative elements. The Thomas J. Lewis home is one of these more reserved, less ostentatious homes. The home's builder took advantage of easily available moldings and trim when constructing this c. 1903 home, but was reserved in his use. Its decorative elements include stained glass windows, leaded glass windows, dentiled cornice trim and decorative gable elements including wavey siding, sawtooth trim and a swag.

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The irregular floor plan is typical Victorian with its large front porch, formal dining room, double parlor and formal entry hall. The upstairs "private spaces" are only slightly less elaborate than the downstairs public spaces. The interior woodwork, pocket doors, entry hall and dining room built-in are all common elements in Victorian homes. The back stair, possibly a servant's stair, represents the family's wealth and status.

The home retains a high percentage of original materials and layout. In the 99 years since its construction, few changes have been made. A small portion of the porch was enclosed for a sunroom. The kitchen was updated and the wood cook stove replaced. An exterior stair was removed. A bathroom was installed upstairs. These few changes do not interfere with or detract from the Victorian style. The late Queen Anne style is well-represented in this Roann home.

The Thomas J. Lewis Home is one of the best examples of late Queen Anne architecture in Roann. In the immediate neighborhood surrounding this home, the homes are dramatically different in size, style and materials. Most are modern-era homes, one-story and predominantly modern materials including aluminum and vinyl siding. Overall, the town of Roann is a mix of sizes, materials and styles and mixes both historic homes with modern homes. Primarily, the historic homes are vernacular in plan with some stylistic details such as window, porch or gable trim. Almost all of these homes have lost their details having been covered with aluminum or vinyl siding or removed for alterations or poor condition. Only one house was found in Roann which equals the Lewis home in size, stylistic details and condition. It is found on the south side of town and was part of a farm.

For the relatively short period of time he resided there, Lewis made significant contributions to Roann's growth and development. He and his brother bought two businesses, a grain mill and a sawmill, that were crucial to the town's growth, serving the farmers in the surrounding communities and serving the property owners, both residential and commercial in construction. With the fire in 1901, the sawmill was of particular importance. The construction of this large Queen Anne home, demonstrates Lewis's confidence in Roann's future. Unfortunately, the prosperity of Roann was short-lived. Like so many small communities in Indiana, its growth slowed in the first quarter of the 1900s and retains its small town feel today. The Thomas J. Lewis home is an unexpected architectural gem reflecting the expectations of the men of Roann in the

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early 1900s. It reflects the late Queen Anne style in Indiana in much greater detail than nearly all of its neighbors in Roann.

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Verbal Boundary Description

Lots Three (3) and Four (4) in Fairfield's Addition to the town of Roann. The house and modern garage are located here on these lots. No other contributing buildings are found on the additional acreage adjacent to these lots.

Boundary Justification

These two lots contain the original house and modern garage. The current owner's property also includes approximately 7.25 acres in Paw Paw Township. This land has no extant buildings in reasonable condition. While this acreage has been owned with Fairfield lots 3 & 4 since 1903, the home was constructed as a "town" home in Roann. There is no evidence the nearby acreage played a significant part in the history of this home except to be owned by the same owner. Therefore, the boundaries do not include that acreage.

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Photo Log – Digital Files are located at the IN Department of Historic Preservation & Archaeology

Thomas J. Lewis House
Wabash County, Indiana
Carol Ann Schweikert
October 1, 2005
Exterior, west façade, camera facing east
#1

Thomas J. Lewis House
Wabash County, Indiana
Carol Ann Schweikert
October 1, 2005
Exterior, south façade, camera facing northeast
#2

Thomas J. Lewis House
Wabash County, Indiana
Carol Ann Schweikert
October 1, 2005
Exterior, south façade, camera facing northwest
#3

Thomas J. Lewis House
Wabash County, Indiana
Carol Ann Schweikert
October 1, 2005
Exterior, east façade, camera facing west
#4

Thomas J. Lewis House
Wabash County, Indiana
Carol Ann Schweikert
October 1, 2005
Exterior, north façade, camera facing southeast
#5

Thomas J. Lewis House

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Wabash County, Indiana
Carol Ann Schweikert
October 1, 2005
Exterior, north façade 3rd floor gable, camera facing east
#6

Thomas J. Lewis House
Wabash County, Indiana
Carol Ann Schweikert
October 1, 2005
Exterior, Garage, Camera facing southwest
#7

Thomas J. Lewis House
Wabash County, Indiana
Carol Ann Schweikert
October 1, 2005
Interior, Formal entry stair, camera facing northeast
#8

Thomas J. Lewis House
Wabash County, Indiana
Carol Ann Schweikert
November 20, 2005
Interior, Formal Parlor, camera facing southwest
#9

Thomas J. Lewis House
Wabash County, Indiana
Carol Ann Schweikert
November 20, 2005
Interior, 2nd Parlor into Formal Parlor, camera facing west
#10

Thomas J. Lewis House
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Carol Ann Schweikert
November 20, 2005
Interior, Sunroom, camera facing southwest
#11

Thomas J. Lewis House
Wabash County, Indiana
Carol Ann Schweikert
October 1, 2005
Interior, dining room, camera facing southeast
#12

Thomas J. Lewis House
Wabash County, Indiana
Carol Ann Schweikert
October 1, 2005
Interior, kitchen, camera facing northwest
#13

Thomas J. Lewis House
Wabash County, Indiana
Carol Ann Schweikert
October 1, 2005
Interior, Front bedroom upstairs, camera facing southwest
#14

Thomas J. Lewis House
Wabash County, Indiana
Carol Ann Schweikert
October 1, 2005
Interior, Upstairs bathroom, camera facing northwest
#15

Thomas J. Lewis House
Wabash County, Indiana
Carol Ann Schweikert

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October 1, 2005

Interior, back stair looking up from first floor landing, camera facing north

#16

Thomas J. Lewis House
Wabash County, Indiana
Carol Ann Schweikert

October 1, 2005

Interior, Hallway upstairs, camera facing east

#17

Thomas J. Lewis House
Wabash County, Indiana
Carol Ann Schweikert
October 1, 2005

Interior, pocket doors between 2nd parlor and dining room, camera facing southeast

#18

Thomas J. Lewis House
Wabash County, Indiana
Carol Ann Schweikert
October 1, 2005

Interior, Dining room built-in, camera facing northwest

#19

Thomas J. Lewis House
Wabash County, Indiana
Carol Ann Schweikert
October 1, 2005

Interior, Stained glass window upstairs, camera facing southwest

#20

Thomas J. Lewis House
Wabash County, Indiana
Carol Ann Schweikert
October 1, 2005

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Interior, Wood trim around doorway upstairs into bedroom from hallway, camera facing southeast
#21

Thomas J. Lewis House
Wabash County, Indiana
Carol Ann Schweikert
October 1, 2005

Interior, door hardware downstairs on front entry door, camera facing south
#22



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 5



Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 14



Photo 18